Increase in Duration of Kannada News

196. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the present duration of Kannada news bulletin by Bangalore Doordarshan; and

(b) whether the Government propose to increase this duration to cover more regional news to telecast second Kannada news bulletin to facilitate viewers abreast of the latest developments?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 15 minutes daily

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

Wonder Loop

197 SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Wonder Loop' appearing in the "India Today" dated September 30, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the economic aspect thereof.

(d) whether the Government propose to adopt this technology.

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item captioned "Wonder Loop" appearing in the "India Today" of September 30, 1996 mentions regarding indigenously developed Wireless Local Loop System employing radio signals to link subscribers with Telephone Exchange. System has been developed by collaborative efforts of IIT Madras, an Indian Company and a US Co. The system has been installed at Chennai for trials.

(c) The economic aspect of the system is not yet known.

(d) and (e). Government has plans to introduce wireless local loop system in Telecom network. A generic specification giving requirements of such systems, has already been prepared. Such of those wireless in local loop systems which broadly meet with the requirements are subjected to field trial if they are offered by the companies

(f) Not applicable in view of (d) and (e) above.

[Translation]

Report on Prasar Bharati Act

198 PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :
SHRI N.N. KRISHNA DAS :
SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Expert Group constituted on Prasar Bharati has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the above group.

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major recommendations of the Expert Group are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d). Government is in the process of wide consultation with various political parties/State Governments. Based on these an Amendment Bill will soon be introduced in the Parliament.

STATEMENT

The major recommendations relating to Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, of the Expert Group, are as under :

- Prasar Bharati to be a statutory corporation as envisaged in the Act,
- Akashvani and Doordarshan to be split into two completely separate wings, under the corporate uMbrella of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, with close coordination in areas clearly defined by the Corporation;
- Prasar Bharati Board to be restructured with a full-time Chairman combining the functions